

1968 ALADDIN TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS Musical Program

By Eric Beheim, WJU #66



Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. elephant trucks (#60 & #11) in Columbus, OH for the 1968 Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus

The 18th Annual Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus took place in Columbus, Ohio in April 1968 in the Ohio State Fairgrounds Coliseum. Produced by M & M Productions (Charles Marine and Grace McIntosh) the program included many famous circus world names: the Cristiani Family Riding Act, Tony Smaha, clown Chester "Bobo" Barnett, Hugo Zacchini, and the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. performing elephants under the direction of Rex Williams.

The 1968 performance was accompanied by a first-rate band of local musicians led by veteran circus bandleader Izzy Cervone.

In 1968, there was no formal fans group such as Windjammers Unlimited specifically dedicated to circus music. What little information we have about circus musical programs from back then is largely due to the efforts of a few far-sighted individuals who, on their own initiative, either sat on the bandstand during a performance and wrote down the titles as the music was being played, or who arranged to record the performance.

One such individual was future Windjammers Unlimited president Robert P. Hills, Jr. (WJU #71, WJU Hall of Fame 2013). A tuba player in the Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus band, Bob would record each year's performance using his own professional-quality equipment. Today, these recordings are an invaluable record of what Shrine Circus musical programs from a half a century ago were like.

Recently, I relistened to Bob's recording of the 1968 Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus performance and wrote down as many of the titles as I could recognize. Since I didn't have a copy of that year's souvenir program, I had to rely on my memories of the performance to come up with the names of the acts that appeared that year.

Bob's edited version of the 1968 performance eliminates the opening grand entry and starts with the first act.



CB-CB truck (#62) used by the Cristiani Bros. Circus



Display No. 1: Guy Gossing, tigers

Entry of the Gladiators (Fučík), Unidentified Oriental Music, chord, Unidentified Oriental Music (reprise), chord, *Born Free* (Barry), chord, *Taboo* (Lecuona), chord, *Taboo* (reprise), chord, *The Big Cage Galop* (King)

Display No. 2: Bob Top & Co. roller skating aloft

Swamp Fire (Mooney), *Zorba the Greek* (Theodorakis)

Display No. 3:

Winchester Cathedral (Stephens), *So What's New?* (Pesano), *Music to Watch Girls By* (Ramin)

Display No. 4: Chester "Bobo" Barnett, solo clown act

In My Merry Oldsmobile (Edwards), *Hi, Neighbor!* (Owens),

burglar music, Mighty Like a Rose (Nevin), *Ain't She Sweet* (Ager), *Beer Barrel Polka* (Vejroda), *Peg o' My Heart* (Fisher), *Waiting for the Robert E. Lee* (Muir), special dog act music, *Galop "Go"* (Jewell), *Anchors Away* (Zimmermann), *A Hunting We Will Go*, Bows Fanfare

Display No. 5:

Something Stupid (Parks), *My Little Corner of the World* (Pockriss)

Display No. 6:

Cabaret (Kander), *Mame* (Herman), *Georgy Girl* (Springfield), *Cabaret* (reprise), chord.

Display No. 7: Aerial Ballet

Unidentified march, Special climb-up music, *Up, Up and Away* (Webb), drum roll for spin, fanfare

Display No. 8: Clowns

The Charleston (Johnson)

Display No. 9: Tony Smaha, dressage

Light Cavalry Opening Fanfare (Suppé), Latin number, *What Now, My Love?* (Becaud), *Girl from Ipanema* (Jobim), *Toreador Song* (Bizet), chord, *Puttin' on the Ritz* (Berlin), bows fanfare

Intermission

Display No. 10: The Flying Amores flying trapeze

March of the Olympians (Walker/Linn), a custom-prepared Bill Pruyn arrangement that seamlessly blended together five famous Tchaikowsky waltzes: *Eugene Onegine*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Serenade for Strings*, *Swan Lake*, and *Waltz of the Flowers*; unidentified comedown music; *Journey to the Center of the Earth* tag (Herrmann)

Display No. 11:

Bill Bailey (Cannon), *Who's Sorry Now?* (Snyder), *A Lot of Livin' to Do* (Strouse), *Anchors Away* (Zimmermann), *Bill Bailey* (reprise), chord

Display No. 12: The Franconi-Cristiani bareback act

Light Cavalry Fanfare (Suppé), *Gallito* (Lope), *Emperor Waltz* (Strauss), chord, *Puttin' on the Ritz* (Berlin), *Mambo No. 5* (Prado), *Siboney* (Lecuona), drum roll, *Java* (Toussaint), chord, *Brazil* (Barroso), drum roll & trombone glissando, *William Tell Overture* (Rossini), *How Dry I Am* (Berlin), *William Tell Overture* reprise, *Light Cavalry Bows Fanfare*

Display No. 13: Trampoline acts

One O'Clock Jump (Basie), *Who's Sorry Now?* (Snyder)

Display No. 14: Liberty Horses

The Trombone King (King), *Marines' Hymn*, chord, unidentified march, *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Mills) special fanfare when the horses reared in unison, *Winter Sports Galop* (Holmes)

Display No. 15: Rosell Troupe high wire act

Gallito March (Lope), *Bésame Mucho* (Velázquez), *Peppermint Twist* (Dee-Glover), *Arrivederci Roma* (Rascel), *Tico-Tico* (de Abreu), *El Niño Judío* (Luna), unidentified galop

Display No. 16: Elephants presented by Rex Williams

Baby Elephant Walk (Mancini), chord, *Over the Waves* (played on the air calliope) (Rosas), unidentified march, drum roll, unidentified march (reprise), *The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down* (played on the air calliope) (Friend), unidentified



march (reprise).

Display No. 17: Hugo Zacchini, cannon act

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 (opening) (Elgar), *Victory at Sea* dramatic theme (Rodgers), Bows Fanfare.

Robert P. Hills, Jr.'s performance recordings of the Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus' musical programs for the years 1969, 1970, and 1971 will be the subject of future articles in *Circus Fanfare*.

Other Eric Beheim Photos from the 1968 Aladdin Temple Shrine Circus performance

Grand Entry:



Bears:



Trampoline:



Liberty Horses:



Hugo Zacchini cannon:



Hugo Zacchini (1898 - 1975) was the first human cannonball to use a compressed-air cannon. His father invented the compressed-air cannon used to propel humans in circus acts. Hugo was also known for being a daredevil and a painter, with two engineering degrees from the University of Florida, and a Master's of Art degree from Jamestown Academy in New York.

Rosell Troupe high wire act:

